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**Department of State**

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**TELEGRAM**

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

PPT-01 SCA-01 PER-01 JAG-01 SCOT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 PC-01 10-13 470920W 033341Z

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R. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ARE

SUBJECT: SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA: ADVICE FOR VISITING STUDENTS

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CURRENT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA IS INTENDED TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM STUDENT EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS CONTEMPLATING VISITS OR STUDY IN ARGENTINA.

2. TERRORIST AND COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN DIRECTED AT PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SCENE. "TARGETS" ARE NORMALLY SPECIFIC RATHER THAN GENERAL. INDISCRIMINATE BOMBINGS OF THEATERS OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN RARE, AND IN THE RELATIVELY FEW INSTANCES WHERE SUCH RANDOM TERRORISM HAS TAKEN PLACE IT HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT BUILDINGS KNOWN TO BE EMPTY OR AFTER AMPLE WARNING TO PERSONS PRESENT TO EVACUATE. CURRENT TARGETS OF THE ILLEGAL EXTREMIST GROUPS ARE THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT EXECUTIVES, BOTH FOREIGN AND ARGENTINE, OF LARGE ENTERPRISES. CASUAL VISITORS, EVEN STUDENTS, ARE UNLIKELY TO BECOME TARGETS. FURTHER, A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE AFFECTED BY SECURITY FORCES OPERATIONS OTHER THAN TO PASS

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# TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04896 271628Z  
OCCASIONAL STREET CHECKPOINTS OR ANSWER ROUTINE POLICE. SOME INQUIRIES. A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT COULD BE CAUGHT UP INADVERTENTLY IN AN INCIDENT, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO AMERICAN TOURIST OR RESIDENT HAS HAD THIS MISFORTUNE TO DATE. FOR THE TOURIST OR "PRIVATE" FOREIGN RESIDENT IN GENERAL, THAT IS, A RESIDENT NOT DIRECTLY IDENTIFIED WITH AN EMBASSY OR BUSINESS CONCERN, THERE IS A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL OF DANGER. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING TO ARGENTINA TO RESIDE IN RECENT MONTHS FROM THE US HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS IS APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT INVOLVING STUDENTS, BUT TO IMPRESSIONS CREATED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GENERAL SITUATION.

ADVICE TO BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS AT SECONDARY, UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL AND EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:

A. AVOIDANCE TO DEGREE POSSIBLE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN FOUR PROVINCES OF SANTA FE (CITY OF ROSARIO), CORDOBA, TUCUMAN, AND CATAMARCA. THESE ARE AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTENSITY OF SECURITY PROBLEMS. STUDENTS MIGHT ALSO AVOID UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. AS GENERAL RULE, A FOREIGN STUDENT WILL BE LESS CONSPICUOUS IN BUENOS AIRES THAN IN A PROVINCIAL CITY, AND STUDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EXPOSED TO ATTENTIONS OF EITHER THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OR GOA SECURITY FORCES.

B. STRICT AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FORM OF INTERNAL ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. ARGENTINE UNIVERSITIES, LIKE MOST LATIN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, TEND TO BE CENTERS OF POLITICAL AGITATION. ANY FOREIGN STUDENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ALOOF FROM ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF HOST COUNTRY. UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAY BE INTERPRETED BY AUTHORITIES AS NOTHING MORE THAN ATTENDANCE AT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ASSOCIATION EVEN BY ACCIDENT WITH SUBVERSIVES OR SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES, OR COLLECTING "SUBVERSIVE" LITERATURE.

C. NEW MILITARY GOA IS CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICS AND WITH RESPECT TO ITS OUTLOOK ON PERSONAL CONDUCT. AUTHORITIES CAN

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PAGE 03

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BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER UNCONVENTIONAL BEHAVIOR, RADICAL HAIR-  
STYLES, UNKEMPT APPEARANCE OR BIZARRE DRESS, DRUG USE, ETC., AS  
UNDESIRABLE AND A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL AND  
SOCIAL VIEWS. WE WOULD BE AMONG FIRST TO AGREE WITH STUDENTS THAT  
THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED, BUT IT IS FACT OF LIFE IN  
ARGENTINA WHICH A SERIOUS STUDENT WILL WISH TO TAKE INTO CON-  
SIDERATION IF HE PLANS TO STUDY HERE.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE DO NOT THINK THAT A STUDENT WITH A STRONG  
AND SPECIFIC INTEREST IN STUDY IN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE DISSUADED,  
AS LONG AS HE IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE GIVEN ABOVE AND  
TO CONDUCT HIMSELF PRUDENTLY.  
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*JS*  
*PKJ*  
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Declassified Case: 52966 Date: 1-31-2013

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04728 201534Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 IN 2-0

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1. 011652Z W/A  
INFO: SPINS, AR  
SUBJECT: SANTUCHO, OTHER TOP ERP LEADERS ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY  
SECURITY FORCES

1. MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO AND ENRIQUE GORRIARAN MERLO, RESPECTIVELY THE NUMBER ONE AND TWO TOP LEADERS OF THE OUTLAWED PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), WERE ALLEGEDLY KILLED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (JULY 19) IN A JOINT ARMY AND POLICE RAID ON A SUBVERSIVE HIDEOUT NEAR LA PLATA. IN A LATER JOINT OPERATION, ANOTHER FIVE EXTREMISTS, ALSO ALLEGED TO BE ERP LEADERS, WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. THE INCIDENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, ALTHOUGH KEY NEWSMEN TELL US POLICE HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF THE TWO SUBVERSIVE LEADERS. THE STORY WAS CARRIED IN MOST BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES, BUT IN THE CONDITIONAL TENSE. THE ONLY INFORMATION IN THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST NIGHT WAS THAT AN ARMY CAPTAIN HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE SHOOTOUT.

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ALREADY HARD-HIT ERP SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, MASSIVE  
RETALENTATION BORN OF DESPERATION, IS A POSSIBILITY IN THE IMMEDIATE  
SHORT TERM. STRIPPED OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP, ERP MAY SPEED UP A  
REPORTED MERGER WITH THE STILL FORMIDABLE MONTONEROS, WHO HAVE  
APPARENTLY BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN ERP IN RECRUITING NEW  
MEMBERS AND AVOIDING HEAVY LOSSES BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES.  
EVEN SO, SANTUCHO'S DEATH WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL  
BOOST TO MILITARY AND POLICE.

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